



Church Technical/Media Consulting and Project Development Opportunity
Request for Proposals and/or Preliminary Inquiries
V 2.0 August 2020

Summary

A traditionally no-tech/low-tech Episcopal Church congregation (but with a winsome, contemporary heart) needs all-new systems, mainly operable by volunteers, to capture, record and live-stream worship services and high-quality sacred music offered by professional choir and organist.

Our parish has little or no consistent past experience of technologies used to live-stream, record, share, promote or archive our liturgies and music. The church has no voice-amplification system; mention of such is typically met with derision.

The early-2020 coronavirus pandemic and related stay-at-home directives and health concerns have put us on a steep learning curve. Key parish leaders are recognizing that the present difficulties have yielded unexpected opportunities, by way of technology, to better reach and serve our members and also to expand our vision and mission by reaching non-members near and far. We also recognize that ‘there’s no going back,’ or that to do so would result in a loss of greater connection that technology has uniquely and sometimes surprisingly allowed.

Details & Qualifications

We seek engagement with a consultant and project developer to:

○ Provide consulting and project services resulting in installation and operation of technologies and media to live-stream and record a wide range of worship services, featuring choral music sung by our highly esteemed professional choir and accompanied on our 64-rank pipe organ; also live readers and singers, preaching and more, whether in person or from any remote location.

- Technologies and operations will mainly be on church premises and in conjunction with – but with minimal intrusion into – ‘in person’ worship.

- Since pandemic/stay-at-home conditions, we have utilized Facebook Live and Zoom. Though adequate, we are falling short of our champagne taste high-aesthetic standards and wish to significantly improve the quality of our online offerings.

- We aspire to studio-quality recordings of our vocal soloists, choir and pipe organ.

○ Recommend, acquire and install equipment and/or software and/or services. Examples include TPZ camera(s), mics, speakers (if/as needed for in-person congregation), amp and/or mixer and monitors –all of which with placement proposals and rationales – plus Internet provider/optimization and software and/or services.

○ Provide ‘Instructions for Dummies’: documentation and basic user manual(s) for a parish largely new to these matters. Initial and ongoing training, demonstrations and troubleshooting.

Continued ...

Additional Considerations

○ We welcome engagement on additional projects that are arguably related but that are secondary and/or with regard to which we have less clarity and consensus. Some that have been identified include:

- A voice amplification (mic and speaker) system for the church, **and/or**,
- A personal hearing assistance system, **and/or**,
- A system whereby choral music from off-site (either pre-recorded or live from another locale) could be broadcast in the church to parishioners participating in in-person worship.*
- Sound system for an adjacent large hall where large parish meetings are held.
- Possibility of sharing sound/video between the church and adjacent hall.
- Outdoor speakers at entrances to convey choir and organ music to the street.

○ Religious alignment not necessary, but appreciation of our parish's needs and mission will of course be valued.

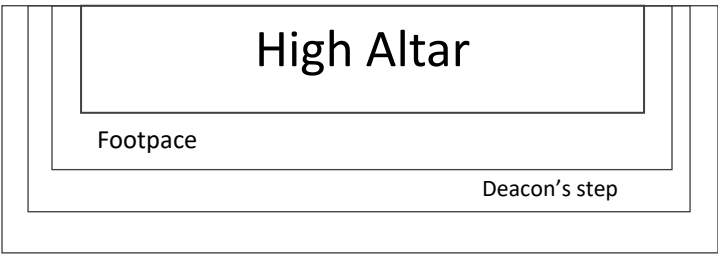
○ We are fully committed to the safety and health of all persons on church premises. Face masks are presently mandatory. We have and use hand sanitizer and gloves as appropriate.

○ For additional information: www.ascensionchicago.org, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram.

○ Some additional technical/contextual information – with diagrams, measurements and photos – may be found on the following pages.

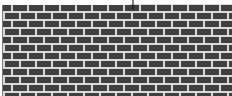
○ **Contact/Inquiries:** Father Patrick Raymond, Rector - praymond@ascensionchicago.org.

* The Episcopal Bishop of Chicago has directed that no singing whatsoever take place in churches – no chanting, hymn singing, choir or soloist – until further notice, likely after a vaccine is developed and administered.



**Basic church layout, not to scale.
(Dimensions on following page.)**

We mainly use a traditional high altar (priest with back to People during the Canon of the Mass), but also regularly use a freestanding altar, rolled on wheels into the sanctuary, as shown, or to the side when not being used.



Acolytes and Emcee on benches

Door to sacristy

Deacon Celebrant Subdeacon

Sedilia

auxiliary pew



'Michael Door'

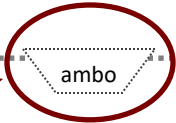
A rood screen is a notable feature of the space and spans the entire width of the nave.

Communion Rail

Communion Rail

Rood Screen >>>

A single 'ambo' serves for readings, preaching & leading of prayers.



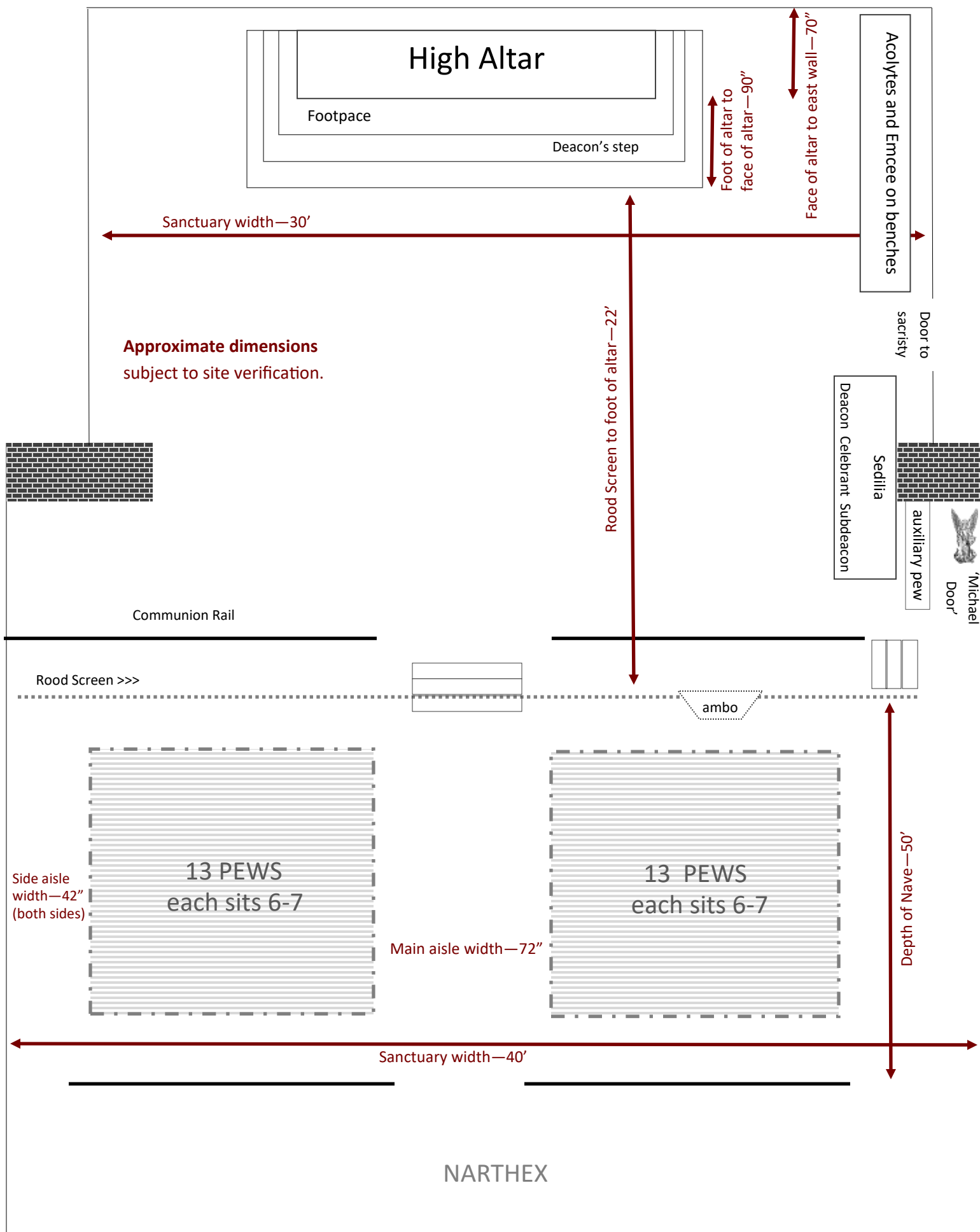
PEWS

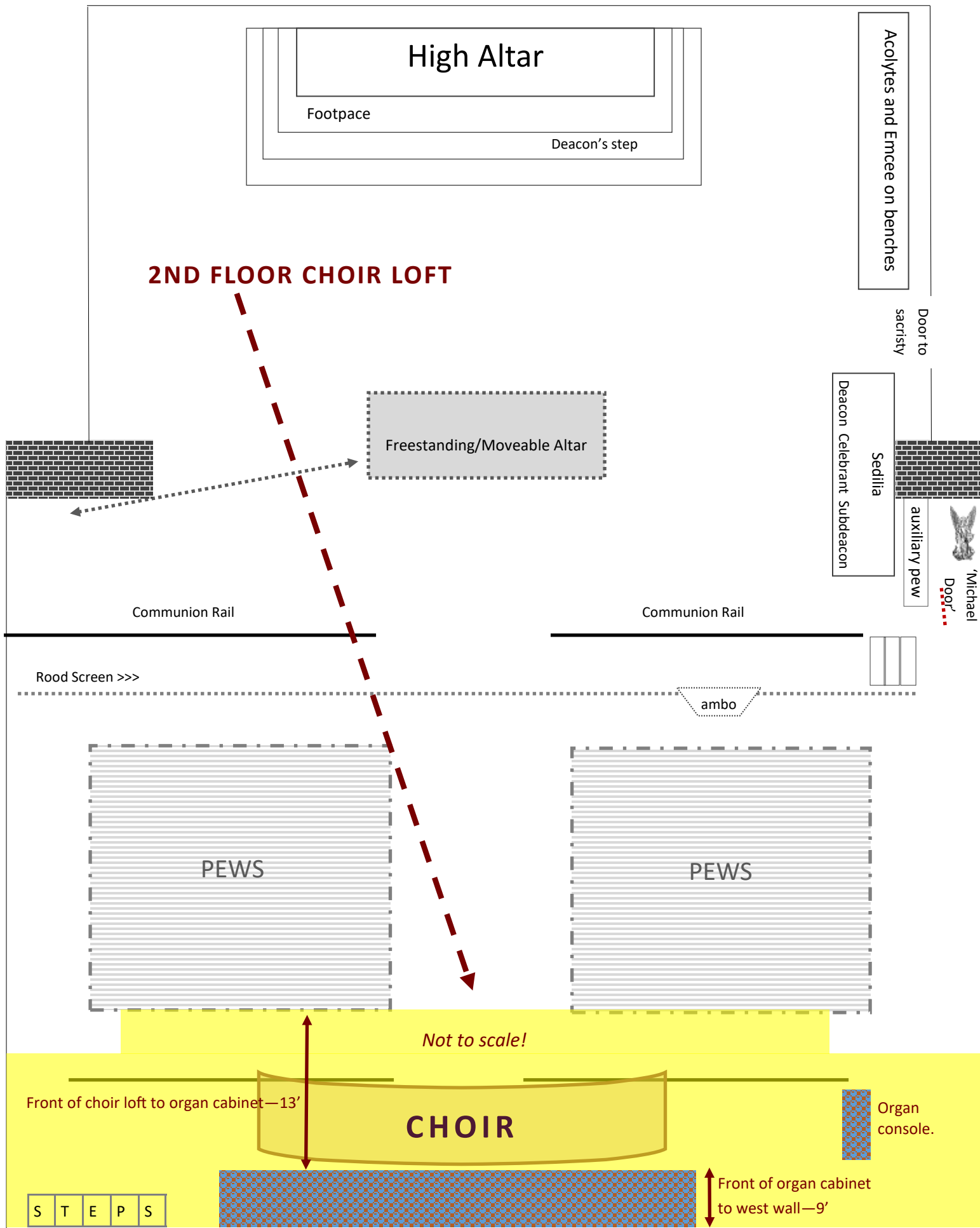


PEWS

NARTHEX

The 64-rank pipe organ and choir are in a loft above the narthex. See additional diagram on subsequent page.





**View of Church of the Ascension
sanctuary from the choir loft.**

Note the two shrines,
to Mary, lower left and
to St. Michael on the right,
both are important devotionally.



**View of Church of the
Ascension sanctuary
from the choir loft,**

via our 24/7 webcam,
installed just after
pandemic restrictions
went into effect in
March 2020



**View of Church of
the Ascension choir
and organ loft,**

from the sanctuary
as the ministers
leave the sanctuary
at the end of mass.



**Preliminary thought
about 1 TPZ camera
placement.**



**The priest presides at the altar
and at the 'sedilia' shown here.**
This location is convenient but not
liturgically necessary. It could, for
instance, be moved across the
sanctuary to fit into the frame
shown above.



Parishioners have enjoyed this view while watching our organist play during our recent, initial live-streaming endeavors.



Church nathex is normally unimportant liturgically but the baptismal font is there.

